

REMARKS

As noted above, the present application is a Continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/543,209, filed April 5, 2000, the specification of which is incorporated herein by reference.

Claims 1, 15, 21, 23, 24 and 27-30 are amended, claims 7-14, 18, 19 and 22 are canceled, and claims 31 and 32 are added; as a result, claims 1-6, 15-17, 20-21, and 23-32 are now pending in this application.

During prosecution of the Parent application, an office action dated June 3, 2003 (the "office action"), rejected certain claims as being anticipated by Oda (U.S. Patent No. 5,838,888). The Examiner also rejected other claims as being unpatentable over Oda (U.S. Patent No. 5,838,888) in view of Inose (U.S. Patent No. 6,068,359). In the same office action the Examiner objected to yet other claims indicating that they contained subject matter that would be allowable if combined with the elements and limitations of their respective base independent claims and any intervening claims.

In the interest of furthering the prosecution of the Parent case the Applicant placed the objected to subject matter into condition for immediate allowance and canceled those claims which stood rejected in the office action. The present preliminary amendment addresses additional allowable subject matter as supported by the specification of the parent case as originally filed.

Applicant's independent claims 1, 21, 27-30, as amended, recite allowable subject matter. By way of example and not by way of limitation, independent claims 1 and 21 recite in part:

“printhead controller circuit means including a replaceable ASIC receiving said output from said print formatter circuit, and responsively providing low-level discreet control signals controlling printing actions of a printhead.”

and independent claims 27-30 recite in part:

“a printhead controller circuit having a replaceable ASIC”

Similar subject matter was previously indicated as allowable in connection with original dependent claims 17, 19 and 23.

As such, Applicant believes that independent claims 1, 21, 27-30, currently amended, are allowable. Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the same upon consideration of the present continuation.

Applicant's independent claim 15, as amended, recites allowable subject matter. By way of example and not by way of limitation, independent claim 15 recites in part:

“including in the control signals an “energy dissipation” control signal, and utilizing said “energy dissipation” control signal to control an energy level provided at said selected single orifice for ejecting printing fluid therefrom.”

Similar subject matter was previously indicated as allowable in connection with original dependent claim 19.

As such, Applicant believes that independent claim 15, currently amended, is allowable. Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the same upon consideration of the present continuation.

NEW CLAIMS

Applicant has added new claims 31 and 32. Claims 31 and 32 are added to further illustrate distinguishing features of the present application. Claims 31 and 32 are fully supported by the specification as originally filed, do not introduce any new matter, and are hereby introduced solely for the purpose of exhibiting additional claimable embodiments available for the application as originally filed.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the new claims upon review of this case.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (360) 212-8052 to facilitate prosecution of this matter.

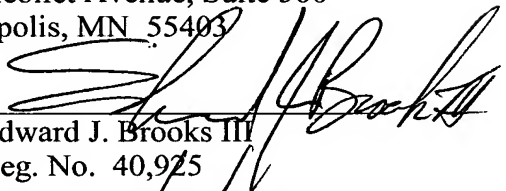
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